

## **GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes**  
**April 11, 2006**

**Members Present:** Bob Johnson, Debora White, Greg Hoit, Edwin Gary, Joe Seigler, Stephanie Jenny, Andrea Purdy, Jan Ammons, Commissioner Velma Boyd-Lawson.

**Members Absent:** Jeff Poupart

**Staff Present:** Susan Simpson, Parks & Recreation Director

**Guests:** None.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m. at the Forks Cafeteria.

### **MINUTES**

**ACTION:** No minutes, first official meeting of committee.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jan Ammons began the introductions. She told the members that this group formed as a sub-committee of the Recreation Advisory Board several years ago. She was Chair of the Recreation board then and was very interested in greenways and open space. She is married to Andy Ammons, developer of Heritage, and wants to make sure that connections for walkability is preserved throughout town. She has three teenagers who are very active in sports and school.

Stephanie Jenny has lived here four years. She and her family moved from North Raleigh. They have two children and she wants to see balanced growth and is certainly interested in greenways and how they connect.

Greg Hoit works for IBM and lives on a horse farm in eastern Wake Forest. He is very interested in the equestrian portion of trails and greenways and making sure something is available for this group.

Debora White has lived in Wake Forest since 1996 near Richland Creek. She is a biologist with a great interest in nature and wildlife habitat preservation. She has two children and they love the outdoors.

Bob Johnson is a businessman in Wake Forest. He lives on a farm in Franklin County and got involved with this group by wanting to make sure the downtown was connected with greenways and trails.

Joe Seigler lives in the south region of Wake Forest near the Neuse River. He is a builder and has been before the Town board on several occasions concerning water quality.

Velma Boyd-Lawson is the Commissioner liaison to this board. She also serves as the liaison to the Recreation Advisory Board. She teaches health and PE at Wake Forest Elementary School. She said that she was very pleased with the talent on this board and their interest in the environment.

Edwin Gary is retired from New England. He has grown children and grand-children. He has looked at the Open Space and Greenway plan and is in support. He loves the small town atmosphere but understands that growth happens but needs to be managed.

Andrea Purdy has lived here one year and moved from the Washington, D.C. area. She is a librarian in Knightdale. She thinks we have a great downtown and is interested in the walkability of Wake Forest.

### **ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jan Ammons agreed to give a brief history of how this committee was formed, and what they have done up to this point. This group was a sub-committee of the Recreation Advisory Board and formed when Wake County sought to pass their \$15 million Open Space bond. The Planning Department received a grant in 2000 to hire a consultant to work with the Town on forming an Open Space and Greenway Plan. Greenways, Inc. was hired to do the plan. It was adopted in 2001 by the Board of Commissioners and greenways and open space was made a high priority. The Town also received a Clean Water Management Trust Fund for \$1.3 million to purchase greenway easements along Smith Creek and preserve water quality. This corridor was identified in the Open Space and Greenway plan as the number one priority for acquisition and development. In 2002 the Town bought a 117 acre site that borders Richland Creek for open space, trails and a park and received \$1.5 million from the County's Open Space bond fund. In 2003, Wake County passed another \$26 million dollar Open Space bond and the Town received \$1.1 million from this fund for the purchase of 80 acres of open space that borders Smith Creek. It also borders the 40 acre property that the Town purchased with the school system for a park at the Heritage High School site. The Town has also purchased 43 acres along Sanford Creek. This will be our main connection with the Town of Rolesville.

Ms. Ammons stated that the group started with 2 or 3 members and grew since then. The first order of business was to educate ourselves on what a greenway was and how could the group get involved in promoting preservation and development. They invited speakers from the City of Raleigh, Wake County, and Town staff. They have met with NC-DOT and staff from Rolesville. Sig Hutchison, who chairs the Wake County Open Space and Park committee, and a great advocate of greenways and open space spoke to the group.

Ms. Ammons mentioned the work that was done in seeing that pedestrian culverts on the NC-98 By-pass were installed. Three of the four connections have been accomplished. This work was in conjunction with NC-DOT. She also mentioned the stream restoration projects that have been completed or are underway. One was done in Heritage along Smith Creek at the soccer center and one is being done along Richland Creek.

Several members mentioned the tour that the group initiated several years ago. It was very helpful in seeing what property the Town has and where the Town has trails and looking at corridors. The group went to several sections and then actually walked the Kiwanis greenway behind the Post Office and Library.

All of this work did not go unnoticed by the Town Board who felt it was time to appoint an Advisory Board that would be official and have direct access to make recommendations to them. Ms. Ammons thanked again each member for their willingness to serve. She said that we have done a good job in acquiring property and now we need to move forward with getting something on the ground. Over the next years a lot is going to happen and we all can be a part of it.

Director Simpson gave a list of what trails are on the ground: 3/4 mile at Burlington Mill along Smith Creek; 1/4 mile along Smith Creek at the Soccer Center in Heritage; 1/2 mile in Old Mill Stream; and 1/4 mile at Kiwanis Park (behind Post Office and Library). The Town is also expanding the trail at the Soccer Center by another 1/4 mile down to Rogers Road. The Town has also applied for a grant to extend the trail at the soccer center north to the culvert at NC-98 By-pass along Dunn Creek (a tributary of Smith Creek).

Edwin Gary asked if it would be possible to organize another tour for the present board. Debora White mentioned that she has a suburban. Director Simpson stated that the Town no longer has the bus, but that maybe she and Ms. White can make arrangements with her vehicle and a rental van. Mr. Gary said that maybe next month before our next meeting would be good.

Ms. Purdy asked if there was a bigger copy of the Open Space map. Jan Ammons mentioned that Deputy Town Manager Roe O'Donnell had a great map of the Smith Creek greenway and acquisitions to date. Director Simpson stated that she would get with Mr. O'Donnell and with Planner Lisa Potts in the Planning Department and work on maps.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The first item of business was to confirm meeting dates, times and locations. The group agreed that the second Tuesday of every other month and the 7:30 a.m. time was fine. The Forks Cafeteria is a good location as well. The meeting dates for the rest of the year are as follows: June 13, August 8, October 10, and December 12.

The next item of business was the formation of a nominating committee to bring back a slate to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of this board for a year. The following members agreed to serve on the nominating committee: Edwin Gary, Stephanie Jenny, and Debora White.

The last item of business was postponed until our next meeting. This would be to see if one of our members would like to attend the CAMPO bicycle and pedestrian stakeholders group.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.